an amount of Rs. 306.24 lakhs till date for the activities related to catchment area treatment.

Wildlife Advisory Board, Orissa

1356. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how many times has the State Wildlife Advisory Board, Orissa met during the years, 1999 to 2002, year-wise; and

(b) what are the details of major decisions of such meetings with regard to setting up of wildlife sanctuaries in the State?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) During the period 1999-2002 the State Wildlife Advisory Board of Orissa met once *i.e.* on 12.1.1999. At this meeting the Board decided that following six sanctuaries be taken up on priority basis for notification:—

i. Kondakamberu Sanctuary

ii. Kapilash Sanctuary

iii. Gandhamardan Sanctuary

iv. Narayanpatna Sanctuary

v. Malyagiri Sanctuary

vi. Nagarmukh Dolphin Sanctuary

Clean Ganga

1357. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "How clean is Ganga, anyway", published in the Hindustan Times dated 17th February, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) on which date the Ganga Cleaning Authority was set up;

(d) the points in UP, Bihar and Bengal in which work on the physical cleaning of the Ganga river has been carried out;

(e) the stretch on which the work is still pending and by when the same is likely to be completed; and

(f) the total amount spent on cleaning of Ganga, till date?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news-item refers to a new website launched by the Sankat Mochan Foundation, a Varanasi based Non-Governmental Organisation to create awareness about the cleaning of river Ganga.

(c) The Central Ganga Authority was set up in February, 1985 and renamed as the National River Conservation Authority in September, 1995 with the incorporation of other major rivers of the country.

(d) and (e) Under Ganga Action Plan Phase I, pollution abatement works like sewage interception and diversion, sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation, crematoria, river front development etc., were taken up in 6 towns of UP, 4 of Bihar and 15 of West Bengal. These works have since been completed except for 3 sewage treatment plants, 1 in West Bengal and 2 in Bihar which are targeted to be completed by March, 2002 and September, 2000 respectively. Under this phase, a capacity to treat 835 million litres per day of sewage has been created. In the second phase of the Ganga Action Plan, similar works have been taken up and are being implemented in 22 towns of UP, 14 of Bihar and 23 of West Bengal. A capacity of 1860 million litres per day of sewage is targeted to be intercepted, diverted and treated. These works are likely to be completed by 2005. The work on the physical cleaning of the river Ganga referred to in the news-item was taken up under the public participation and awareness programme at various places along with the river Ganga from time to time.

(f) An amount of Rs. 539 crore has been spent on the cleaning of the Ganga by the Government so far under phase I and II of the Ganga Action Plan.

Complaints against IFS Officers

1358. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that public complaint was made against some very senior I.F.S. Officers of the Sikkim Forest Department, for having amassed huge assets, disproportionate to their known sources of income;